



P-PATTERSON, Eugene
CIA 3.01.3 Journalists
P-Poynter, Nelson
Orig: Scientology,
Church of
(orig: under Patterson)

August 4, 1976

Dear Eugene,

Thanks for your letter of July 22nd, which enclosed an attachment from the Church of Scientology.

You ask about the reference to CIA on page 2 of the press release. The statement is false. I hope this will help clear the matter up.

I would be remiss if I didn't make one additional comment, which is totally unrelated to Mr. Poynter. I think it is a sorry state of affairs when a person can be "smeared" by an allegation that he worked for the CIA. I recognize the sensitivity between journalists and CIA, and indeed we have taken steps here to make things better; but I still come back to the fact that it is a shame when the climate is such that cooperating with CIA in some way leaves one open to a "smear" attack. Someday I hope we have the opportunity to discuss this in person. I respect your judgment on these matters.

My perception of CIA is far different from the inside than it was from the outside. There is an awful lot of dedication, patriotism, and integrity in this place and I feel frustrated that I have been unable to make that clear to the American people.

Warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

/s/ George Bush

George Bush

Mr. Eugene Patterson
St. Petersburg Times
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DCI/GB/dlg

Orig - Adse

1 - DCI (w/basic)

1 - A/DCI (w/basic)

1 - ER